

*Corrected
A1*

be observed and a reference, and the amounts of displacement and tilt of phase shift are detected according to the carrier frequency and complex amplitude, so as to correct results determined by the phase shift method, whereby influences caused by errors in the amount of tilt/displacement of the phase shift amount are eliminated.

Please amend the paragraph [0076] beginning at line 9 up from the bottom of page 19 as follows:

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[0076] Without being restricted to the above-mentioned embodiment, the method of the present invention can be modified in various manners. When detected the inclination of the object in the method in accordance with the above-mentioned embodiment, fringe image data carrying the phase information from the object is acquired, the whole or part of each fringe image data is subsequently subjected to Fourier transform, so as to determine the phase information of the object in the fringe image data, and the inclination of the object is detected according to thus determined phase information. However, for example, the frequency of carrier fringes in the fringe image data may be determined in place of the phase information in the fringe image data, and the inclination of the object may be detected according to thus determined frequency of carrier fringes. A technique for detecting the inclination of the object by determining the frequency of carrier fringes in fringe image data as such is disclosed in detail in the